MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

6 NOVEMBER 1986

Lebanon

A 6 November report by the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon spoke of "ferocious fighting" between Amal Movement and Palestinian gunmen in the Burj al-Barajinah area following the collapse of another cease-fire agreement. Earlier, Sanaa Voice of Palestine radio broadcast a PLO communique accusing Amal of opening fire at Palestinians attending a funeral in Burj al-Barajinah. This "treacherous" shelling killed 9 Palestinians and wounded 22 others, the PLO asserted.

In another security development, Voice of Lebanon radio reported that Syrian forces in Tripoli carried out raids and arrests in the city following machine gun and rocket attacks on their positions.

Leaders of the main Christian organizations met in East Beirut 5 November to revive the Lebanese Front, according to Radio Free Lebanon, which noted that the participants included leaders of the Lebanese Forces, the Phalangist Party, the National Liberal Party, the Guardians of the Cedars, and Al-Tanzim.

Jordan-Syria

Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i was received by his Syrian counterpart 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm at the start of an official visit to Damascus 6 November, Damascus radio disclosed.

Earlier, the radio broadcast a statement by the "Jordanian Popular Forces" calling on all Arab regimes and organizations to stop pursuing a peace settlement with Israel and stressing that armed struggle is the only way to assert Arab rights in Palestine. The statement, which was issued in Amman and signed by 58 people, also criticized the weakness of Arab reaction against the Israeli-Moroccan meeting in Ifrane, adding that the Arabs should respond to the meeting by "reviving the spirit of complete rejection of Israel's existence."

Turkey and the Iran-Iraq Conflict

A Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by ANATOLIA accused "certain international press organs" of spreading "speculative reports" about "certain imaginary situations" that might result from the Iran-Iraq war. The spokesman reaffirmed Turkey's respect for the principles of territorial integrity and independence at the national and international levels.

In another development, an Iranian military spokesman denied allegations that Iranian planes bombed a village in Turkey's Van Province 4 November, stating that Iraq made these allegations in a futile effort to undermine Iranian-Turkish relations, according to IRNA. If the village was attacked, Iraqi warplanes could have been responsible, the spokesman said.

Iran

In a speech reported by Tehran radio, Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri expressed regret that the "unity of expression and sincerity which existed in the early days of the revolution has diminished today," adding that this benefits "the enemy." People should forget whatever happened in the past and be united, rather than seeking self-interest, he stressed. As for Iran's policy toward the United States, he said it would be correct to establish "humanitarian relations between two independent countries" if the United States "comes to its senses."

GCC Summit

The seventh GCC summit conference in Abu Dhabi issued a "final statement" during the closing ceremony broadcast by Riyadh television. The GCC Supreme Council noted its "profound concern" over the Iran-Iraq war and urged Iran to accept calls for a peaceful solution to the conflict. As for defense, the council declared its "determination" to protect Gulf shipping and approved recommendations on military cooperation. Praising the steps to implement a unified economic agreement, the council adopted principles to facilitate trade. In an effort to protect the region's heritage and interests, it also agreed on a common policy on regulating foreign media.

Chadian GUNT Leader in Libya

In remarks cited by AFP, an aide to Chadian opposition leader Goukouni Oueddei said the GUNT leader's life is "no longer in danger" from a wound suffered in a gun battle with Libyan soldiers 30 October.

Sudan

The clandestine SPLA radio reported that Prime Minister Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has sacked 22 Sudanese Army officers for political reasons, asserting that this shows his intention of making the Army an instrument of his party.

FBIS

DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 215 *6 November 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Najibullah Interviewed by London Paper *[MORNING STAR 4 Nov]* ..... C 1
Foreign Minister Reiterates Stand at UN ..... C 2
BAKHTAR on Pakistan's Nuclear Capability ..... C 2
On U.S. Stinger Delivery to Rebels ..... C 2
KABUL NEW TIMES on Weinberger's 'Big Lie' ..... C 3

BANGLADESH

Turkish Prime Minister Leaves Dhaka 3 Nov ..... D 1
BANGLADESH OBSERVER on India-Pakistan Ties *[1 Nov]* ..... D 1

INDIA

Italy's Craxi Arrives for 1-Day Visit ..... E 1
Meets With Gandhi; Departs ..... E 1
Minister Discusses Defense Matters in Moscow ..... E 1
UNI Cited on U.S. Supply of Tanks to Pakistan ..... E 1
'Rumors' Cited Prior to Attempt on Gandhi's Life ..... E 1
'Terrorists' Kill United Akali Dal Leader ..... E 1
Home Minister Rejects Gurkhaland State ..... E 2
GNLF Calls Strike; Darjeeling Situation Peaceful ..... E 2
Assam 'Paralyzed' by 12-Hour Statewide Strike ..... E 2
Gandhi Role in Cambodian Conflict Viewed *[THE TIMES OF INDIA 27 Oct]* ..... E 2

PAKISTAN

Ziaul Haq Denies Exploding of Nuclear Bomb ..... F 1
Foreign Office Spokesman on Nuclear Program ..... F 1
UN Resolution on Afghanistan Pleases Yaqub Khan ..... F 1

IRAN

Lebanese Paper on Hashemi, McFarlane Issues *[Beirut AL-SHIRA']* ..... I 1
Aim of 'Undercover' Visit To Resume Relations ..... I 3
Khamene'i Congratulates New Mozambican Leader ..... I 4
Khamene'i: Forces Have 'Upper Hand' in War ..... I 4
Envoy Meets with Syrian Official in Tehran ..... I 4
Islamic Leader Warns of 'Zionist-American Plots' ..... I 5
Arrest of Iraqi-Backed 'Terrorists' Reported ..... I 5
47 Iraqis Cross Iranian Border; Seek Refuge ..... I 5
'28 More' Cross Border ..... I 5
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 5
Iraqi Gunboat Forced To Flee Jetty ..... I 5
3 Ships Intercepted in Gulf ..... I 5
Communique No 2,646 ..... I 6
Communique No 2,647 ..... I 6

Najibullah Interviewed by London Paper
PM051423 London MORNING STAR in English 4 Nov 86 p 6

[Interview with PDPA General Secretary Najibullah by Roger Trask: date, place of interview not specified; first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] Dr Najibullah, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, in a written reply to questions from our foreign editor Roger Trask, counters the distorted Western Media view of the situation in his country.

[Trask] The western media claims the government, while controlling the towns, is under siege from the mountain-based "freedom fighters," who would soon take control if the Soviet troops left. In reality what is the real scale of the military threat from the counter-revolutionaries?

[Najibullah] The bourgeois media is reflecting a completely distorted picture of the situation in our country.

Peoples' sovereignty has been established in all the provinces of the country. The elections of the representatives of the people to the Jirgah (assembly) of the people which took place recently is proof of this fact.

By carrying out anti-people activities, the counter-revolution has unmasked itself in the eyes of the people.

The counter-revolution has no programme nor an ideology. The counter-revolution has no future and it cannot have one.

It is fact that at present imperialism is feeding and openhandedly financing the counter-revolution. It is posing a certain threat to the revolution.

This demands the concentration of efforts by the party and the armed forces toward crushing the counter-revolution.

[Trask] Your government has stressed its objectives of "shielding" the border with Pakistan to prevent the infiltration of the counter-revolutionaries. What are the means of implementing this goal?

[Najibullah] Modern frontier forces have been created in our country. These forces are shielding the main paths on which banned caravans infiltrate Afghanistan.

The people have also established frontier militia, that is voluntary Frontier units in frontier areas.

Sealing the border with Pakistan is also coordinated with joint efforts by the Pushtun tribes. The state is paying great attention to working with them.

[Trask] What message should the counter-revolutionaries and their imperialist supporters take from this month's withdrawal of six regiments of the Soviet Forces?

[Najibullah] You had better ask this question of them. I think that the counter-revolutionaries and their masters calculate that with the return of six regiments, the defence capabilities of the revolution will be considerably reduced and this will give the counter-revolution the opportunity to achieve certain successes in the struggle against people's sovereignty.

However, these calculations will lead to complete failure. The partial withdrawal of the limited military contingent of the Soviet Union proves, in fact, the ever-increasing combat capability of the armed forces and the state of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA).

[Trask] The British capitalist press regularly accuses the Afghan and Soviet forces, rather than the counter-revolutionary forces, of atrocities and of terrorising the rual population. How do you respond to these claims and to Mrs Thatcher receiving this year one of the counter-revolutionaries, Abdol Haq, under the guise of a freedom fighter?

[Najibullah] Such arguments are first of all self-serving fabrications which have no facts for their proof.

We have concrete facts that, wearing the uniforms of Afghans and Soviet armies, the counter-revolutionaries resort to barbaric acts against the people. [sentence as published]

Later on all these facts are filmed and are distributed in the West and the barbaric acts of the Soviet and Afghan armed forces.

What did the counter-revolution turn Spin Buldak into? During a few hours they fired 700 rockets on a small village.

So far as the reception by Thatcher of Abdol Haq is concerned, it is only another proof of the fact that the British government continues its interference in the internal affairs of the DRA in rendering support to the counter-revolution.

[Trask] The situation of women in the pre-revolutionary days was very backward. How has this now changed and is the advancement of women an area of potential conflict with the Islam faith?

[Najibollah] After the revolution the equality of women with men was declared. The election of 400 women to the local organs of state power and administration is a good manifestation of this fact.

During the reign of King Amanullah Khan a number of women were sent abroad to study but this was propagated as the work of the infidel by the British.

[Trask] How are the interests of the U.S. and other western states served by ploughing in so much money running to millions of dollars, into arming the counter-revolutionaries?

[Najibullah] It is obvious that the imperialists are not wasting their money.

The U.S., Britain, and other countries who are actively supporting the counter-revoltuion are following their concrete aims.

These aims include the suffocation of the national liberation movement in Afghanistan, expansion of their influence in the Middle East and preventing other countires from following the example of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

Foreign Minister Reiterates Stand at UN
LD060617 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 5 Nov 86

[Excerpts] Minister of Foreign Affairs Shah Mohammad Dost, who is presently in New York to take part in the 41st session of the United Nations General Assembly, yesterday met ambassadors from a number of the friendly countries in the UN headquarters. Talking about the immediate national and international issues at this meeting, he once again shed light on the DRA stand vis-a-vis the issue concerning the solution of events around Afghanistan and said:

The DRA with its active and constructive participation in the Geneva talks, has not spared any effort and has shown the necessary flexibility for achieving a peaceful solution to events around Afghanistan and it will continue such a principled stand in the future. At this meeting Shah Mohammad Dost also informed the participants of the session about some of the issues raised in Geneva talks and its results and he added: What the DRA says, it follows earnestly. [passage omitted]

Naturally, on the basis of our relentless, coordinated, and principled stand, and the recent steps of goodwill of the DRA and USSR, we are waiting for a new impetus and acceleration in the process toward solving events around Afghanistan.

We expect the opposite side, through its all-round perception of the DRA goodwill, realistic intentions, and principled flexibility to react with respect to these measures and significant goodwill and to reply by ceasing their interference in the internal affairs of our country.

BAKHTAR on Pakistan's Nuclear Capability
LD060936 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0457 GMT 6 Nov 86

[Text] Kabul, November 5, BAKHTAR: A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

The generous assistance of Washington in arming Pakistan as well as the expectation of the U.S. imperialism from Islamabad regime has made the Pakistani generals closer to a nuclear camp and has placed the Pakistani regime on the threshold of testing the first nuclear bomb.

Ronald Reagan in the U.S. Congress sometime ago confirmed the claim of Pakistani authorities as if the latter does not possess nuclear weapons and by doing this provided the ground for the delivery of another 600 million dollars under the title of economic and military assistance to Pakistan.

Not a (?few) days has passed since daily *The Washington Post*, quoting the U.S. intelligence sources, reported that Pakistan has advanced towards the production of atomic weapons and tested a powerful nuclear bomb.

It is hard to believe that Islamabad regime would get access to such a lethal mass destruction weapon without Washington's assistance.

In the Middle East also Washington helps Israel in this regard in order to attain its ominous goals in the oil region. Washington's contribution to the apartheid regime of South Africa as well as to the hated regime of South Korea takes place within the framework of this policy.

As for the question of peace and security in South Asia, Ronald Reagan thinks over how to put its clandestine assistance at the disposal of the Afghan counter-revolution through Pakistan.

Or, how to have the Pakistani military facilities at its disposal and to have a permanent place for its "AWACS" espionage planes enabling it to collect intelligence information from the territories of Afghanistan, India, and the Soviet Union to safeguard the selfish interests of the U.S.

This dangerous policy of Washington and Islamabad not only causes concern for the countries of the region and endangers peace but has also aroused the wrath and indignation of the awakened people of Pakistan who want an end to the dependence of Pakistan on the U.S. imperialism. The recent unrest and demonstrations in the cities of Pakistan were clear manifestation of Pakistani people's opposition against such dependence.

On U.S. Stinger Delivery to Rebels
LD060945 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0448 GMT 6 Nov 86

[Text] Kabul, November 5, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

The U.S. Administration has given a new and dangerous dimension to its intervention into the internal affairs of the DRA by delivering the most sophisticated ground-to-air "Stinger", missiles to the Afghan counter-revolutionary elements. It is understood that Washington administration will supply two Stinger missiles to the Afghan counter-revolution against shooting down one Afghanistan plane.

The savage counter-revolutionaries who have not refrained from committing any crimes against the people of Afghanistan are aiming at civilian airplanes, which are not equipped with any defence system against missile fire, in order to acquire more of these missiles. The best example of these crimes is that the counter-revolution shot down a civilian plane of Bakhtar airline [as received] as a result of which 52 innocent people were martyred.

Washington administration has stepped up its illegal interventions and aggressions against the DRA at a time when the Soviet Union with the accord of the DRA has called back six regiments of its limited military contingents from Afghanistan in an attempt to accelerate the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

The people of the world know it very well that the Reagan administration has embarked upon anti-Afghan and anti-Soviet propaganda campaign by levelling baseless accusations in regard the partial return of the Soviet military regiments. Apart from this, it has put at the disposal of Afghan counter-revolution its most modern ground-to-air "Stinger" missiles.

The American leaders and the Western mass media have launched a false propaganda campaign as if [words indistinct] administration is supporting the political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. But the supply of advanced types of lethal weapons to the counter-revolutionaries is proof of intensification of the undeclared war against the DRA by the U.S. imperialism.

Washington administration as one of the guarantors of non-intervention into the internal affairs of Afghanistan should help for the solution of the political situation in Afghanistan whereas it is evidently hightening tension around the country.

KABUL NEW TIMES on Weinberger's 'Big Lie'

LD020743 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 2 Nov 86

["Big Lies" — BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, November 1, BAKHTAR: Caspar Weinberger, the defense secretary of the U.S., chose the second method to react to the joint decision of the DRA-USSR on the return of the six regiments of the Soviet Union's limited military contingent from Afghanistan, says an article published by daily *Kabul New Times*.

Since he could not ignore the political importance of this step, he resorted to an exceptionally big lie.

According to this lie, the Soviet Union had recently sent some more forces to Afghanistan in order to withdraw them later.

The partial return of the Soviet Union's limited military contingent who, on the basis of the invitation of the legal Government of the DRA are temporarily stationed here, is aimed at speeding a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

As is published by the U.S. press, the most extreme faction of the imperialist ruling circles in the U.S., are not at all in favour of a political solution of the situation around Afghanistan. They try hard to enhance the tense situation in the region and to fish in the troubled waters.

The article says that the U.S. press has recently disclosed many cases, showing that planned use and dissemination of false and fabricated information is approved in the meetings of the White House as an instrument of fulfilling the adventurist aims of the foreign policy of the Reagan administration. The method is aimed at misleading public opinion and even its own allies.

The recent statement of Mr Weinberger shows that his big lie is not a mistake or misunderstanding, but an international act. Because, the "hawks" want the continuation of U.S. adventurism in this region.

Past experience has shown, and the future will prove it, the article points out, that if foreign aggressions and interferences in the internal affairs of the DRA are not ceased, revolutionary Afghanistan has the might, possibilities, and sufficient means to defend itself. Besides, our people have the firm support of the great Soviet Union, other socialist countries, and all progressive and peace-loving forces of the world, the article says.

Turkish Prime Minister Leaves Dhaka 3 Nov

BK031525 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Nov 86

[Text] The Turkish prime minister and Madam Turgut Ozal left Dhaka this morning at the end of their 4-day official visit to Bangladesh. The president and Begum Raushan Ershad bade them farewell at the Zia International Airport. The Turkish prime minister was given a guard of honor by a smartly turned out contingent of the three services. He took the salute and inspected the guards. The deputy chief martial law administrators, the prime minister, deputy prime ministers, ministers, diplomats, high-ranking civil and military officials, and Turkish nationals living in Bangladesh were also present at the airport.

BANGLADESH OBSERVER on India-Pakistan Ties

BK051640 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 1 Nov 86 P 5

[Editorial: "Peace In The Region"]

[Text] If a six-year-long hot war in West Asia, with peace not yet in sight, has opened a major fissure in the peace of the region, in East and South-East Asia there has been a relative peace between the countries concerned. This generalisation however cannot exclude the fact that, as between the two groups of states — ASEAN and SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] — the intra-regional relations in the latter has not been free from strains generated by mutual fear and mistrust. New cracks showing in Indo-Pakistan relations over the twin questions of Sikh terrorism and nuclear competition are among the latest pointers to dangers that would call for maturer diplomacy and statesmanship to handle. From later 1985 through early 1986, Pakistan and India looked like getting on well [as published] with diplomacy on either side making ostensibly serious efforts to ease the tension. It was then building around chiefly one question: Pakistan's nuclear programme and India's worries on this count.

In fact, enhanced contact at diplomatic level followed by meetings between the leaders of both countries came close to seeing Pakistan's no-war proposal and a reciprocal proposal of good relations by India being clenched in a formal agreement between the two countries. But some stray events and the escalation in Sikh terrorism and India's suspicion that Pakistan had a hand in them and supported the Sikh demand for a separate state has since removed the chances of such rapprochement.

In one of the most critical speeches at a recent meeting of senior officers of India's three defence wings Mr Gandhi directly accused Pakistan of "backing Sikh militancy in the Punjab and attempting to impair bilateral relations between the two nations." He also delivered a warning that, should Pakistan go ahead with her nuclear programme, "India would have to reconsider its various defence options and postures". This is strong language. Mr Gandhi could be expected to make sure by evidence, admitting of no ambiguity, that Pakistan was guilty, before using it.

Not that such reactions from Delhi were not unforseeable. Over the past couple of months or so the two countries appeared to be edging toward the brink. On more than one occasion the Indian Prime Minister repeated the charges and Pakistan has kept consistently denying them. In such circumstances, if bilateral peace is an object of serious search for both India and Pakistan, the need for clarification of the point at issue should never have been left to chance. There could have been no loss of face for both parties to revive the diplomatic means of sorting it out through direct talks as had been done once earlier with quite good results.

Maybe, tradition and habit fostered by three wars they have fought since independence, is proving the imponderable element in the Indo-Pakistan psychosis, that is again and again coming in the way of their settling for a viable modus vivendi.

There is also a history, starting from partition through the decades, of simmering tension (following and preceding the wars) which no sustained attempt has been made to deescalate, or to end completely. While the period through Mrs Gandhi's rule could probably have offered fewer chances of a durable solution of the nagging disputes, Mr Gandhi's leadership was expected to open a new chapter in the hitherto strained relations. For him to look like making no break with the past negations and inhibitions can at best be a disenchantment and, at worst, a gloomy outlook for peace between Delhi and Islamabad — as well as for the region as a whole.

Italy's Craxi Arrives for 1-Day Visit

BK050948 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 4 Nov 86

[Text] The Italian prime minister, Mr Bettino Craxi, arrived in New Delhi today on a day's official visit. He will have talks with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, on bilateral and international issues, particularly the situation in the Mediterranean. Mr Craxi has come to the capital after spending a day in Bangalore. He will leave for home this evening.

Meets With Gandhi; Departs

BK051611 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 5 Nov 86

[Text] The Italian prime minister, Mr Bettino Craxi, and Mr Rajiv Gandhi discussed in New Delhi today measures to expand cooperation between the two countries. Mr Craxi was in the capital on a day's visit and left for Rome this evening. Mr Gandhi hosted a lunch in his honor. They had talks later on bilateral and other matters.

The two leaders acknowledged that there is great scope for increased interaction between India and Italy in several areas. They exchanged views on how to increase the level of bilateral trade and to bring about greater balance in it. At present the balance is in favor of Italy. They also discussed ideas of expanding economic cooperation, especially in the industrial sector.

In the political sphere, Mr Craxi gave his host an account of Italy's perception on issues like East-West relations, disarmament, and the recent Reykjavik summit. Mr Rajiv Gandhi briefed the Italian prime minister about the situation in this region. This was the first visit by an Italian prime minister to India.

Minister Discusses Defense Matters in Moscow

BK060340 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 6 Nov 86

[Text] The union minister of state for defense research and development, Mr Arun Singh, has said that India will never compromise on security matters. He was referring to Pakistan's proposed purchase of AWACS planes from America.

Talking to newsmen at Moscow after the conclusion of his 3-day visit to the Soviet Union, Mr Arun Singh said Indo-Soviet relations during the last 20 years have been very close in many fields. Mr Arun Singh, who is accompanied by a high-level defense delegation, had detailed discussions with the acting Soviet Defense Minister General Lushev.

UNI Cited on U.S. Supply of Tanks to Pakistan

BK060325 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 6 Nov 86

[Text] A *United News of India* report from Washington says the Reagan administration has decided to supply Pakistan more than 200 M-1 tanks, considered to be the most advanced in the world. Quoting highly placed sources, the agency said the decision is extremely extraordinary as Washington had cleared a line of weaponries which was just being introduced in the U.S. Army. M-1 tanks are equipped with laser systems to guide its shells.

'Rumors' Cited Prior to Attempt on Gandhi's Life

BK051311 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 5 Nov 86

[Text] The government today clarified in the Rajya Sabha that our consul general in Karachi had in a cable on 2 October informed that rumours were in circulation in Karachi regarding the attempt made on the life of the prime minister. Making a statement, the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, said that the consul general had commented that this had happened almost a day in advance of the actual occurrence of the incident at Rajgnat. The cable was sent by the consul general at 1820 from Karachi and received in the External Affairs Ministry at 2330 on 2 October. A copy of the cable was received by the Ministry of Home Affairs the next day. Members from all sections of the house criticized the consul general for not passing on the information regarding circulation of rumours on the previous day of [as heard] the incident quickly, particularly when it is related to a matter of highest importance.

'Terrorists' Kill United Akali Dal Leader

BK061303 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 6 Nov 86

[Text] In Punjab, two suspected terrorists shot dead Mr Hari Singh Bagga, Jathedar [religious leader] of the United Akali Dal. The incident occurred near Tarn Taran in Amritsar District this morning. His brother-in-law was also injured in the shooting.

Home Minister Rejects Gurkhaland State

BK060928 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 6 Nov 86

[TEXT] The home minister, Mr Buta Singh, has said that the center is opposed to the division of West Bengal, and has categorically rejected the demand for a separate state of Gurkhaland. Making a statement in the Lok Sabha today in response to a calling-attention motion moved by Mr Saifuddin Chowdhury — CPI-M, and others, he said the West Bengal government has proposed regional autonomy for the Darjeeling hill areas and an amendment the Constitution for this purpose. He made it clear that the government is not in favor of any amendment of the Constitution. The home minister sought the support and cooperation of the House in issuing an appeal to the Gurkha National Liberation Front [GNLF] to give up its misplaced demands and adopt peaceful and democratic methods for the redressal of the genuine grievances of the people. Mr Buta Singh also appealed to the West Bengal government, particularly its chief minister, to show a high degree of statesmanship and initiate a dialogue with the people concerned to remove discontent and bring about order and normalcy in the affected areas.

Mr Buta Singh said the government wishes to make it clear beyond any shadow of doubt that violence has no place in a democratic system, however genuine the grievances may be. He said the GNLF is gravely mistaken if it believes that violent confrontation will advance its objectives. The government condemns the violence that has affected the Darjeeling hill areas due to the confrontationist attitude of the GNLF and the CPI-M. The home minister said that the responsibility for maintaining law and order within the state rests with the West Bengal government. The center will continue to render such assistance as may be requested by the state government. Mr Buta Singh expressed the view that the socioeconomic development of the Darjeeling hills will go a long way in meeting the felt needs of the people of the area.

Opposition members from West Bengal contended that the GNLF agitation is antinational and secessionist in nature. They said that imperialist forces are behind the agitation which is aimed at creating a rift between Nepal and India. They alleged that the ruling party at the center is encouraging the agitation for narrow political considerations. The discussion is to continue.

GNLF Calls Strike; Darjeeling Situation Peaceful
BK060336 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 6 Nov 86

[Text] In West Bengal, adequate security measures have been taken to ensure law and order in the entire Darjeeling District following the Gurkha National Liberation Front [GNLF] call for an indefinite strike of all educational institutions in the district from today. Meanwhile, reports say that the overall situation in the district remained by and large peaceful with no untoward incident taking place in the last 24 hours.

The chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, said in Darjeeling that the Gurkhaland agitation is not only the problem of West Bengal but of the entire nation as it threatens the country's unity and integrity. He criticized Mr Rajiv Gandhi and other Congress-I leaders for their statements on the issue.

Assam 'Paralyzed' by 12-Hour Statewide Strike
BK060857 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 6 Nov 86

[Text] In Assam, a 12-hour statewide bundh [strike] called by the All Assam Students Union [AASU] has paralyzed normal life today. The bundh, which began at 0500 this morning, is in protest against alleged police atrocities in the state. In Guwahati, all shops and business establishments remained closed. Vehicular traffic was off the road. No untoward incident has been reported so far from anywhere in the state. The state government has made elaborate arrangements to maintain law and order. Earlier, talks between the Assam home minister and the AASU leaders held yesterday to seek a solution have failed.

Gandhi Role in Cambodian Conflict Viewed
BK041513 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English
27 Oct 86 p 8

[Editorial: "A Mediatory Role?"]

[Text] It is not all clear what role Mr Rajiv Gandhi expects to play to help resolve the protracted conflict in Kampuchea. The Prime Minister's answers to persistent questions on the subject at his press conference in Bangkok provided no pointers. A clearer picture will doubtless emerge after he has done his home work. Only then will it be possible for him to determine whether the Thai premier, Mr Prem Tinsulanan, had something specific in mind when he called on him to use India's "immense prestige and influence" to bring about a political settlement of the Kampuchean problem. But the fact that the call was made at all, and that, too, by Thailand, merits reflection. Ever since Vietnam intervened militarily in Kampuchea nearly eight years ago, the Thais, actively supported by the Americans and the Chinese, have provided sanctuary and logistical support to forces hostile to the Hanoi-backed regime in Phnom Penh. They have also taken the lead to deny the regime a seat in the United Nations. New Delhi's decision to recognise the Heng Samarin government was, therefore, bitterly resented in Bangkok and, barring Indonesia (which adopted a more flexible stance), in the Asian region as a whole.

The reasons that may have prompted Mr Tinsulanan to suggest a mediatory role for India are a matter of conjecture. It could well be that the Thais have recognised at long last that they cannot get rid of the Vietnamese from Kampuchea through military means. The Khmer resistance may register some progress from time to time, particularly during the wet season, but these gains are rapidly neutralised by the Vietnamese in the wake of their dry season offensive. What is more, despite surface appearances, the various factions that comprise the Khmer resistance — the discredited Khmer Rouge, the non-communist front led by Mr Son Sann and supporters of Prince Sihanouk — remains deeply suspicious of one another. Given these factors, as well as the presence of thousands of Kampuchean refugees on Thai soil, the Thais may well have concluded that the time has come to seek a way out of the impasse. By turning to India, are they trying to send a signal to the Russians that they might review their unequivocal support to the Khmer Rouge in return for a Vietnamese pullout from Kampuchea? Could it be that Moscow has been sounding New Delhi along the same lines? The severe criticism of Vietnam by several countries during the debate on Kampuchea in the UN General Assembly and recent Soviet efforts to improve relations with China suggest that conditions may be ripe for some give-and-take on the contentious issue. This is bound to be a long-drawn process in which India, to judge by the Thai prime minister's call, could play a mediatory role.

Ziaul Haq Denies Exploding of Nuclear Bomb

BK051632 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 5 Nov 86

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said the situation in Sind is totally normal and it is not as alarming as reported by the press. He said, as stated earlier by the prime minister in the National Assembly, the government is fully aware of the situation and is taking steps to totally normalize the situation in Sind. Speaking informally to newsmen after inaugurating a factory to produce pharmaceutical raw materials in Lahore this afternoon, the president stressed the need for strengthening and stabilizing the present elected government and institutions and to promote national unity and cohesion. He asked the press to discourage elements who want to provoke the people and create trouble. He said the people, press, and government should work together for the welfare and stability of the country. The newspapers should correctly inform the people about events.

When asked to comment on the report of *The Washington Post*, which said that Pakistan h,s set off a nuclear explosion [atami dhamaka — Karachi Domestic Service in English at 1600 GMT on 5 November carries a similar item in which the phrase "exploded a bomb" is used], the president said that there is no truth in this report.

Foreign Office Spokesman on Nuclear Program

BK060539 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu
0500 GMT 6 Nov 86

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad yesterday reaffirmed Pakistan's willingness to cooperate with other nations in establishing a nuclear-free zone in Southeast Asia and in bringing all nuclear installations under nonpartisan inspection and safeguards. The spokesman expressed surprise over the fabricated stories about Pakistan's nuclear research and development program circulated by foreign observers, especially by the observers of a country which has stockpiled nuclear weapons and openly claims that it can develop nuclear weapons within weeks. He said Pakistan's nuclear research and development program is intended solely for meeting the energy requirements as Pakistan is hopeful that it will be able to acquire a 900-megawatt reactor to be installed at Chashma to fulfills its energy requirements.

UN Resolution on Afghanistan Pleases Yaqub Khan

BK060645 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 6 Nov 86

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has expressed satisfaction at the passing of a resolution by the United Nations General Assembly, calling for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. After the General Assembly vote, he said the passage of the resolution is vivid proof of the support which a huge majority of sovereign nations have expressed for the principles contained in the resolution.

According to the *Associated Press of Pakistan*, the UN secretary general's personal representative, Diego Cordovez, is expected to visit Islamabad and Kabul on 18 Novembe· to begin his diplomatic efforts to resolve differences in connection with the finalization of a time frame for the withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

Lebanese Paper on Hashemi, McFarlane Issues

NC051205 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
3 Nov 86 pp 24, 26

[Text] What has happened in Tehran in the past 2 months? Was it part of a power struggle such as takes place in most regimes in the world? Has the issue been resolved by the removal of one of the parties to the struggle, and has the former participant in government and decisionmaking turned overnight into a traitor deserving execution, as usually happens in such cases?

Al-Shira' considers itself well-informed on past and present events within Iran. It has taken an interest in everything that has happened there since the victory of the revolution in February 1979. It is familiar with all the details. It knows about the home of the successor of the imam [Ayatollah Khomeyni] Shaykh Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri; it knows how the big house in Qom was opened to all citizens after its patron left the shah's prisons; and it knows how the son of the house Shaykh Mohammad Montazeri (Abu Ahmad) used the small room overlooking the courtyard as a headquarters for exporting the revolution to the world. The latter began his activities by waging an open battle against all those who considered themselves as dominating the revolution, even if they held the highest posts in the state, after the victory of Imam Khomeyni.

Al-Shira', which throws light on events in Tehran, urges everyone, particularly in Iran, to provide a full and fearless explanation of what has happened, without making futile accusations and without taking stands which are bound to prevent the reaching of a solution, regardless of the strength of those who are still in power. They should learn from revolutions in other countries which devour their sons and then themselves become exposed to loss as a result of the blows of others.

The Iranian news agency reported the arrest of Mehdi Hashemi on a charge of possessing weapons and fake passports a month after the incident actually took place. The incident was kept secret. What has been revealed so far, and what might be revealed in the future, does not and may not go beyond helping to corroborate the charge against the man who until recently was the means of liaison between most world liberation movements and Tehran.

Mehdi Hashemi was born in the town of Najafabad in 1946. This is also the home town of Shaykh Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri and his son Shaykh Mohammad. The relationship between Hashemi and Montazeri is not confined to their shared birthplace; it extends to a closeness of ideas and views on the continuation of the revolution and the course it should take.

Hashemi is one of the staunchest supporters of the call of Shaykh Mohammad Montazeri (God bless his soul) for the revolution to be exploited. He (Montazeri) was nicknamed "the Trotsky of the Iranian revolution" during the revolution's early days. Others described him as the "red shaykh". At any rate, he was known to all those who knew and supported him as the revolution's mind that never slept.

Hashemi is much influenced by the political and revolutionary movement of Montazeri junior. He did not worry about the revolution after its victory, as some do these days. He had been living the revolution ever since the shah's power was at its peak. He was arrested several times during the shah's reign and on three occasions faced charges that could have led to his execution. However, due to lack of evidence the authorities were compelled to release him in the end. When the revolution triumphed, he and Shaykh Mohammad were the first to criticize the way Ayatollah Beheshti was dealing with the revolutionaries in the Islamic Republican Party. He was also critical of President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr. In both instances, Beheshti and Bani-Sadr were at the peak of their power. However, Montazeri and Hashemi did not hesitate to level charges against them. They submitted their written views and reports about them to Imam Khomeyni himself. In one of these reports Hashemi described the Islamic Republican Party, which Beheshti and Rafsanjani had formed, as the Rastakhiz Iranian Ba'th party, which the shah had formed several years before his downfall.

Mohammad Montazeri was a great supporter of this party, which was formed in March 1979; that is, 1 month after the victory of the Iranian revolution. He even called on members of Islamic movements outside Tehran to join it. However, he soon had a violent confrontation with Ayatollah Beheshti, who was the second strongest man in Iran after Ayatollah Khomeyni until his death in 1981. Montazeri issued vehement statements which greatly embarrassed his father, Shaykh Husayn. This prompted the father to issue a statement of his own to the press in 1979 in which he objected to the stands of his son, explaining that they were fantasies and illusions resulting from the torture and beating he had received during the shah's regime.

When Shaykh Mohammed Montazeri formed the "Satja" organization in 1979 to campaign for support for Islamic liberation movements throughout the world, Hashemi was his right-hand man. Through this organization, Hashemi was able to make close contact with these movements and to establish strong relations with them.

The organization was later disbanded because it conflicted with the concept of a state in Iran, a state which had begun to take root after a difficult start. Following the disbandment, Montazeri joined the Revolutionary Guard, which had turned from the mission of overthrowing the shah to a mission of protecting the revolution. Montazeri had many supporters within this group, including "Abu Sharif," who was the commander of the guard's military operations, and Hashemi, who was responsible for the guard's relationship with various liberation movements in the world.

Although Montazeri was martyred at the same table with Ayatollah Beheshti in the bombing of the "Hezb-e Jomhuri-ye Eslami" [Islamic Republican Party] headquarters by the "Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization," Hashemi continued to play a role in the Revolutionary Guards in his capacity as member of the Central Committee and the official in charge of the Liberation Movements Office. His role became more prominent in all walks of life in Tehran following the September 1980 escalation in the war with Iraq.

It was natural that Hashemi would play his role within the guard as he himself understood it and as he wanted it; in other words,

within the context that the revolution must continue. This caused him to clash with advocates of another concept several times, advocates who were becoming stronger every day. Their concept could be described as the notion of a stable state. The most prominent advocates of this concept were Rafiqdust and Mohsen Reza'i, members of the Guard's Central Committee. Rafiqdust later became commander of the Revolutionary Guard while Reza'i became minister of the Revolutionary Guard.

The struggle between these two concepts was settled by Ayatollah Khomeyni in 1984. He split the Liberation Movements Office into two organizations which were no longer under the jurisdiction of the Revolutionary Guard: the Foreign Ministry under 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and the Ministry of Intelligence under Shaykh Mohammad Reyshahri, a strong and intrepid man.

These changes meant a reduction in Hashemi's tasks and his transfer from a revolutionary organization in which he believed, to government and security organizations — namely, the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Intelligence. In view of the fact that his ideas did not fit the concepts of these two organizations, he voluntarily left the Revolutionary Guard and settled in Qom to play another role commensurate with his aspirations and methods.

In Qom he acted in accordance with religious teachings; namely, through the six schools which had been established by Shaykh Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri and which included over 1,000 students, most of them Iranians, in addition to a few Lebanese, Iraqi, Pakistani, Afghan, and various other Arab students.

Hashemi also acted within the political sphere through his indoctrination of fighters on the battlefronts.

In terms of field activity abroad, Shaykh Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri did not hesitate to support Mehdi Hashemi in his endeavors to again set up an office to aid liberation movements throughout the world. Hashemi benefited from Shaykh Montazeri's personal, political, and material support and from donations and Islamic taxes, which used to be paid to the office by Montazeri's supporters and merchants from Tehran and other Iranian cities, particularly Esfahan.

The office's links with the Islamic liberation movements around the world stopped again. [as published] Many of these movements' leaders had opted to deal with this office because they imagined it was supported by Shaykh Montazeri, the man not overly concerned with the method of political and diplomatic relations which the Iranian Foreign Ministry strives to maintain. The maintenance of such relations was often at the expense of these liberation movements, the latter believed.

The office's links were extended to movements with which Iran as a state was not happy to have dealings, particularly in Afghanistan, where movements emerged which rejected cooperation with Pakistan, at the same time, without receiving any aid from Iran. These movements were, however, taken under the office's wing.

Gradually, contradictions surfaced between this office and the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Intelligence. It was natural that such contradictions should lead to offenses, which in turn led to confrontation.

Before matters could grow much worse, the authorities, represented by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Intelligence Minister Shaykh Mohammad Mohammadi-Reyshahri, intervened several times with Shaykh Montazeri, at the instigation of Tehran's strongman, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, to stop the office's activities under Montazeri's chairmanship. Montazeri, however, always used to say: This office is under my patronage. Its philosophy is different from yours. You are a state with relations that you must preserve. The office is a revolution, and it has relations it must preserve.

Majlis Speaker Shaykh Hashemi-Rafsanjani often attempted to persuade Mehdi Hashemi to give up his post and choose an ambassadorship in any international capital. These efforts were in vain; the man neither wanted to be nor could be an ambassador.

As the contradictions between the two concepts grew, they had to be settled decisively. How was this done?

Al-Shira' is concerned with presenting the political view which both parties offer as justification. *Al-Shira'* is adopting neither of these views. What is the state's view, if one may put it that way?

The state, or those who defend the decision to arrest Hashemi, say the detained man's actions threaten the state's relations with others, which is not in agreement with the state's interests. The state relates the following two incidents as proof of its view:

1. The first incident was when arms were transported to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in a civilian aircraft carrying pilgrims during last year's Hajj season, an action which created tension between Iran and the Kingdom. The state provides as proof the fact that the plane took off from Esfahan, Hashemi's stronghold and formerly the stronghold of Montazeri's son. It is the city from which numerous pilgrims who support Hashemi's stands have emerged.

2. The second incident was the kidnapping of Syrian Charge d'Affaires in Tehran Iyad al-Mahmud. The state says Hashemi and his group kidnapped him on behalf of Syria's foes in the region, led by Yasir 'Arafat.

Since this accusation goes beyond theoretical differences to actual involvement in affairs harmful to relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the large Muslim neighboring country, and with Syria, the principal Arab ally, the issue is graver still, accusing Hashemi of having close ties to Iranian and Palestinian groups linked to Yasir 'Arafat, who is hostile to the state and the revolution.

What does Hashemi reply?

His circles defend him, and from their own viewpoint, trying to explain the two incidents from a different perspective, they say:

The ones who shipped the weapons on the plane from Esfahan had no connection with Hashemi. Hashemi replies to the accusation by saying: The Revolutionary Guards group arrested on this charge has admitted that the shipment was made in direct preparation for the Revolution Guards and their command, and there is no use in levelling this accusation against him.

Regarding the kidnapping of the Syrian charge d'affaires, Hashemi says: This was planned by Iranian intelligence, supervised by Shaykh Reyshahri, because the diplomat was fomenting national and Ba'thist ideas within Tehran. His detention was a message from Tehran to Damascus which Syria understood very well, but which it has not yet answered.

The danger point is reached when Hashemi's supporters reply to the accusations levelled against their official by saying:

The elimination of the Liberation Movements Office led by Hashemi was a clear Western demand to Tehran in return for delivering the military assistance it needs.

They then relate an incident which *Al-Shira'* publishes only to present the other side objectively.

They relate the following incident: A secret U.S. envoy, Robert McFarlane, visited Tehran secretly at the beginning of last month (September) and stayed at the Independence Hotel (formerly the Hilton Hotel). He held extremely important talks with envoys from the Foreign Ministry, the Consultative Assembly, and the Army. Among these envoys were Dr Mohammad Lavasani, head of the Political Department for Asia and Africa, who had worked for 10 years for Aramco in Saudi Arabia; Dr Mohammad 'Ali Hadi, deputy chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Consultative Assembly; and a senior Army officer.

The talks between McFarlane, who served for a time as an assistant to National Security Council Chief Brzezinski, and the Iranian delegation centered on the Gulf war and what is termed international terrorism.

The tale as told by Hashemi's supporters goes on: Iran asked two things of Washington, which its envoys proposed very clearly: one was a halt to military, material, and political support for the Iraqi regime; and the other was the sale of spare parts to Iran for its U.S.-made aircraft, tanks, radar, and other weapons. In return, the United States, through McFarlane, asked Tehran to stop supporting liberation movements in the world on the pretext that they are terrorist movements and to guarantee the security of Arab Gulf states.

The tale ends with the conclusion of the deal. Hashemi's supporters say: Washington responded quickly to Iran's demands, sending four C-300 planes from a base in the Philippines carrying some of the needed spare parts for Iran. These contributed to a large extent to improving the Iranian air defense system, which last week downed three Iraqi planes, one a Sokhoi and two MiG-23's. The shipment also strengthened the defense of Tehran and improved Iranian radar operations.

Tehran's response came with the arrest of Hashemi and the accusations that he had deviated from the logic of the state and had tried to involve it in disputes with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Syria, as indicated by the two incidents.

This is what Hashemi's group and the official Iranian statements are saying. While it is not our place to direct or accept accusations of this party or that, we can still relate available information on this question.

Hashemi's supporters believe that this entire incident unfolded without the knowledge of Imam Khomeyni, who was bed-ridden after suffering a heart attack that required a long rest. With regard to his call to let justice take its course, they do not doubt this at all, because they, too, want justice to take its course.

In addition, they still consider Shaykh Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri their patron. Montazeri had sought to explain the affair to Imam Khomeyni, but the imam's condition did not allow this. So the apparent successor himself stayed at home and refused to receive envoys from senior personalities. Nor did he receive Shaykh Rafsanjani or Khamene'i when they came to him in Qom to explain the situation. Hashemi's supporters add other reports about statements issued in Tehran and other Iranian cities, some of which were published in the press, which defended Hashemi. They also reported that a number of Revolutionary Guards cadres had returned from the front to protest the arrest of their patron.

In addition, his supporters believe that the coming stage will see an escalation in the confrontation with the liberal trends in Iran, particularly the factions of former Prime Minister Mehdi Bazargan, in an attempt to cover up the real struggle raging between these two positions. Accusing Mehdi Hashemi of killing a clergyman will be useless, because this is the same charge levelled against him during the shah's regime.

Whatever the outcome, there are now two opposing logics in Tehran: The logic of the state and the logic of the revolution. Each has its supporting views and practical justifications. If it is difficult for either of them to back away from their ideas, it is still more difficult for either of them to stop levelling the worst accusations against the other to make their logic prevail. We know this all too well in Third World countries. 'Ali Nasir Muhammad was yesterday the undisputed leader of Aden and a nationalist, progressive, and internationalist. Those listening to Aden radio talking about him today will not be surprised by whatever is waiting tomorrow for Abu Bakr al-'Attas or for others in Tehran, Baghdad, etc.

Aim of 'Undercover' Visit To Resume Relations

LD051827 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 5 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 5, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi said Wednesday that the major aim behind the under-cover visit of a U.S. delegation to Tehran was to resume relations with the Islamic Republic.

In an interview with IRNA after Wednesday's Cabinet session, Musavi said that any talks, however unofficial with this clandes-

tine delegation, would be interpreted as unofficial resumption of Tehran-Washington relations, which result, he said, the White House had sought.

Iran has friendly relations with many countries, but negotiations with the U.S. in the light of its crimes against the Islamic Revolution will never take place, said the premier.

Musavi said that Tehran and Washington do not maintain any official or unofficial contacts except on disputes now being arbitrated at the International Court of The Hague within the framework of the Algiers agreement.

On moderation of stances of several pro-U.S. countries including Saudi Arabia and Turkey towards Iran, Musavi said that following Iran's victory in the Val Fajr-8 offensive, launched last February, a relenting of their previous positions was indeed felt by Iran.

The prime minister attributed their revised stances to Iran's steadily increasing strength and the power of the Muslim combatants at the war fronts. "As the Islamic Republic emerges as a regional power, it naturally expects some moderation on the part of neighboring and world countries," he said.

Musavi rejected the notion of the inadvisibility of Iran holding talks with Kuwait and regional states, and noted in all negotiations the Islamic Republic adheres to its deep-rooted ideological principles.

Elsewhere Musavi said that biased persons claimed that Tehran's population was 11 or 12 million, while according to the latest census the population registered a 0.6 percent growth and stands at 5.5 million.

The population of greater Tehran including Karaj and Qom is estimated at 8.2 million. After the 1979 Islamic Revolution, people did not emigrate to the capital as they do in most Third World countries, Musavi said. He said the recently conducted census showed that the literacy rate of the country increased by more than six percent.

On the high population increase in Iran, Musavi said that the 3.5 percent growth was the result of the massive emigration of Iraqi and Afghan refugees into the country. The rate will level off at about 3.1 percent once they return to their countries in the future, he added.

Khamene'i Congratulates New Mozambican Leader

NC050822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Nov 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i has sent a congratulatory message to Mr Joaquim Chissano, the new Mozambican president and successor to the late Samora Machel. The text of President Khamene'i's message is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Your Excellency President of Mozambique Joaquim Chissano. I extend my congratulations to you, to your government, and to the Mozambican people on your selection as president. Mr President, assuming responsibility for the leadership and guidance of the Mozambican people in their struggle against racists and the forces of world oppression at this time in the absence of Mr Samora Machel, the pioneer of Mozambican independence, is a very sensitive and major task. I hope that you will discharge this duty with knowledge and wisdom based on the aspirations of the former leader of Mozambique, who cherished independence, and that you will emerge successful. I have no doubt that the Mozambican people's support for the preservation of their country's complete independence and for the struggle against the racist South African regime and its puppets will prove to be valuable in attaining this sublime objective. This was the greatest desire of the late leader of Mozambique, and remains the wish of the people. In this regard, I wish to assure you that the Iranian position will remain steadfast as always. Our feelings toward and our ties with the late Samora Machel will be transferred to his successor, revolution, and combatant friend. I wish to take this opportunity to pray for your success during the tenure of your responsibility. I beseech the Almighty to ensure the welfare, prosperity, and good fortune of the Mozambican people.

Khamene'i: Forces Have 'Upper Hand' in War

LD051513 Tehran IRNA in English 1447 GMT 5 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 5, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Wednesday that Iranian forces will continue dealing their fatal blows on the enemy one after the other until the anti-Islamic government in Baghdad is toppled.

Speaking to a group of relatives of martyrs, prisoners of war (POW's) and those missing in action from Zanjan Province, the president reiterated "we now hold the upper hand in the war fronts and our victory is definite"

The world is now well aware that the Iraqi regime has no future and that the person (Saddam Husayn) who is engaged in severe repression of the Iraqi people has ignited the fire of war in the region and should be eliminated so that a lasting peace would return to the region, he said.

The president who is also head of the Supreme Defense Council (SDC) emphasized that the Islamic Republic does not intend to launch aggression against any country or allow itself to be bullied.

Envoy Meets with Syrian Official in Tehran

LD051036 Tehran IRNA in English 1031 GMT 5 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 5 — The Iranian ambassador to Damascus, Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, met with Syrian deputy minister for foreign affairs, here Tuesday.

The two officials discussed situation in the Middle East and bilateral relations of the two countries.

Islamic Leader Warns of 'Zionist-American Plots'

LD051834 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 5 Nov 86

[Text] The Islamic Unification Movement led by Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, issued a statement with the warning that: The United States and Israel, in cooperation with a group of Palestinians and Lebanese, are on the point of creating disturbances and riots in Lebanon. In this statement, which was issued by the Political Office of the Islamic Unification Movement, it is stated: The aim of the enemy is to deliver blows to the Muslims of Lebanon, Syria, and Palestine, so that the preliminary measure can be carried out for the return of the Phalangists and the establishment of the latter's hegemony over all Lebanese territory.

In this same statement, the leader of the Islamic Unification Movement has called for the Islamic Unification to prevent the realization of Zionist-American plots and machinations.

Arrest of Iraqi-Backed 'Terrorists' Reported

LD051740 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 5 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 5, IRNA — Five members of two terrorist groups attempting to plant bombs in heavily populated areas in the capital were arrested a few days ago, announced Iran's Ministry of Information here Wednesday.

The Information Ministry said that 60 kgs of explosives were also seized from the Iraqi-financed terrorist groups. It noted that further investigation is underway.

47 Iraqis Cross Iranian Border; Seek Refuge

LD041631 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 4 Nov 86

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan, Prov., Nov 4, IRNA — Some 48 more Iraqi Muslims crossed the western and northwestern borders of the country Tuesday and took refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Among the refugees who sought asylum along with their families, are seven soldiers. The others are physicians, engineers, and teachers who are from Iraqi cities of Irbil, Kirkuk, Sulaymaniyah, Mosul and Saleheddin-Dialeh [name as received]. The Iraqi refugees said that they escaped the cruelty of the Baghdad government.

'28 More' Cross Border

LD051533 Tehran IRNA in English 1520 GMT 5 Nov 86

[Text] Orumiyeh, West Azarbayjan Prov., Nov 5, IRNA — Twenty-eight more Iraqi Muslims crossed the western and northwestern borders of the country Tuesday and took refuge in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

There are physicians, students, farmers, teachers, and mechanics among the Iraqi refugees who are from the Iraqi cities of Baghdad, Kirkuk, Sulaymaniyah, and Irbil. [passage omitted]

The Iraqi refugees expressed relief on managing to escape the cruelty of the Baghdad government.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Gunboat Forced To Flee Jetty

LD061538 Tehran IRNA in English 1529 GMT 6 Nov 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Nov 6, IRNA — An Iraqi gun-boat attempting to approach the beseiged Al-Bakr jetty in the Persian Gulf Thursday, was forced to flee by the heavy coastal artillery fire of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC).

The Iraqi gun-boat vainly attempted to land fresh forces at the jetty in the early hours of dawn, but the ever-alert Muslim combatants frustrated its efforts in carrying out the mission.

3 Ships Intercepted in Gulf

LD061202 Tehran IRNA in English 1157 GMT 6 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 6, IRNA — Iran's Navy intercepted three Liberian, Norwegian, and Greek container ships in the Persian Gulf waters during the past few days to inspect their goods.

Navy Commander Captain Hoseyn Malekzadegan told IRNA here Thursday morning that the Iranian naval forces will continue intercepting and inspecting cargo ships heading for the ports in the northwest of the Persian Gulf.

Explaining interception of the ships which takes place at various points, the Navy commander said that ships, the cargo, or manifests of which need a thorough inspection, will be escorted to one of the Iranian southern ports.

He further said that if after the inspection it is proved that the ships are carrying goods which might increase combat power of the enemy, the ships and their cargo will be seized.

Captain Malekzadegan said that the 14,000-ton *Hualtrotter* Norwegian container ship, loaded in Brest port in France, was heading for a port in north of the Persian Gulf.

He added that goods and manifest of the 19,000-ton Greek container ship *Aphrodite* and the 4,000-ton [as received] Liberian *Mermaid-Ace* were under thorough inspection. The latter had been loaded in a Japanese port and was heading for northern Persian Gulf through Karachi.

Stressing that ships which are voyaging in the region do not travel in international lines and by passing through coastal waters of the regional countries enter the Strait of Hormuz, the commander said that Iran had to fight this vicious attempt by expanding the area under its control.

Therefore, he added, the ships are being intercepted in the Oman Sea, Strait of Hormuz, and the Persian Gulf.

He stressed that in order to thwart conspiracies of supporters of the Baghdad regime, Iranian naval forces will carefully check any movement in the Persian Gulf.

Communique No 2,646

LD051526 Tehran IRNA in English 1518 GMT 5 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 5, IRNA — A cargo ship suspected of carrying related goods for Iraq was intercepted in the Strait of Hormuz and later escorted to a southern Iranian port for thorough inspection Tuesday, said a military communique here Wednesday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,646 said that Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the western and southern fronts Tuesday killing or wounding a number of enemy troops and destroying at least 10 gun emplacements and one truck of theirs. Enemy fire was also silenced and their engineering operations halted.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and more than five light as well as heavy vehicles and several gun emplacements of theirs destroyed in the western border fronts by Iranian artillery fire on Tuesday, the communique said.

In the southern fronts, the communique said, Iraqi forces sustained considerable casualties and losses when they were hit by heavy Iranian artillery and mortar fire. Enemy engineering operations especially in eastern Basra were also checked.

The military communique furthermore said that reconnaissance flight of Iraqi helicopters in Jofeyr operational theater as well as enemy engineering operations in Kani-Sheykh were checked on Tuesday.

In the northwestern fronts, Iranian forces reconnoitered and opened heavy artillery fire on Iraqi positions on Tuesday inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops.

Communique No 2,647

LD061543 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 6 Nov 86

[Text] Tehran, Nov 6, IRNA — Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected five cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Wednesday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied they were not carrying any war-related cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Thursday.

In its Communique Number 2,647 the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Iraqi troops sustained heavy casualties and losses in artillery duels throughout the fronts Wednesday.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and at least seven enemy bunkers and observation posts and several vehicles destroyed in parts of the western and southern fronts Wednesday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces, the communique said.

Exchange of artillery fire continued in the southern fronts Wednesday raging somewhat more heavily in Faqqeh, Talayeh, and Zayd as a result of which Iraqi troops incurred several casualties and losses and were forced to silence their fire.

In the western fronts, the communique said parts of Iraqi positions were set ablaze by Iranian artillery fire. In Qasr-e Shirin and Sumar operational theaters, some Iraqi trucks carrying ammunition and personnel were destroyed and enemy engineering operations halted.

Iranian artillery fire pounded enemy positions and patrols in Piranshahr, Marivan, and Sar Dasht, northwestern fronts on Wednesday according to the communique.